

People v. Serna, No. 00PDJ034, 5/26/2000. Attorney Regulation.

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge accepted the parties' Conditional Admission of Misconduct and suspended Respondent, Cecilia M. Serna, from the practice of law for a period of twenty-one months with twelve months stayed with conditions, including a period of probation. Respondent deposited client funds into her operating account rather than her trust account, and negligently misappropriated those funds paid to respondent for court reporting expenses. She used the funds to pay expenses arising from other matters in violation of Colo. RPC 1.15(a) and Colo. RPC 1.15(b). In a separate matter, respondent failed to deposit client funds into her trust account, commingled client funds with her own funds, and negligently misappropriated client funds in violation of Colo. RPC 1.15(a) and Colo. RPC 1.15(b). She failed to promptly remit funds to the client which were collected on his behalf in violation of Colo. RPC 8.4(c). In another matter, respondent negligently failed to pay court reporter charges within a reasonable time in violation of Colo. RPC 1.15(b). Respondent was ordered to pay the costs of these proceedings.